

2006 Local Accomplishments

MORE STATE AID FOR THE 17TH DISTRICT

I worked to ensure that all of my towns would benefit from this year’s budget. The adjusted budget resulted in several million dollars more than originally projected. The total statutory formula grants for the district amount to **more than \$83 million**, which represents an increase of **more than \$2.5 million over the previous year**. A town-by-town breakdown follows:

	Increase over previous year	Total Education Funding	Total Statutory Formula Grants
ANSONIA	\$444,950	\$13,360,862	\$14,293,919
*BEACON FALLS	\$64,162	\$3,437,310	\$3,705,172
**BETHANY	\$36,409	\$1,612,410	\$1,877,830
DERBY	\$275,607	\$6,411,839	\$8,226,552
HAMDEN	\$1,008,863	\$21,018,930	\$26,685,734
NAUGATUCK	\$607,586	\$26,890,367	\$28,107,574
**WOODBIDGE	\$92,711	\$585,988	\$828,387

Not included above for the towns indicated are additional funds for special education, public school transportation and adult education through: *Region 16; **Region 5

Special Grants To District Towns

I worked hard to secure special funding in order to assist my towns with local projects, including: **Ansonia**—recreation fields rehabilitation; **Beacon Falls**—Depot Street Bridge engineering services; **Bethany**—recreation area rehabilitation; **Derby**—Greenway Trail development; **Hamden**—summer concert series; **Naugatuck**—athletic scoreboard; **Woodbridge**—Town Hall improvements and fire house construction-related expenses. Funding in this category totaled more than **\$150,000 for the 7 towns**.

State Bonding Funds for District Projects

Major funding has been approved for projects that include downtown revitalization in Ansonia, redevelopment in Derby, and a remedial investigation and feasibility study of contaminated properties in the Newhall Street neighborhood in Hamden.

Special Legislation to Assist District Towns

We successfully passed legislation to help spur economic development in the City of Derby by creating a special taxing district. I was also successful in helping the town of Woodbridge obtain \$25,000 as part of the reimbursement from the Connecticut Siting Council for challenging the Phase II power line from proceeding. In 2003, I co-sponsored legislation requiring the Siting Council to establish a fund for this purpose.

A Message to My Constituents

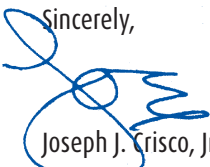


Dear Neighbors,

On May 3rd, the 2006 legislative session came to a close. Our state Constitution dictates the beginning and closing times for each legislative session, and this year was the shortest possible—only 85 days. In this short time, the General Assembly passed significant initiatives to make Connecticut a better place to work, live and educate our children. I have included some highlights of the session in this newsletter.

I am especially proud that a bipartisan budget was adopted that provides tax relief for automobiles, real estate and businesses while returning money to cities and towns to help hold down local property taxes. This includes an increase—from \$400 to \$500—in the state property tax credit.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Crisco, Jr.
State Senator, 17th District

Stay Informed...

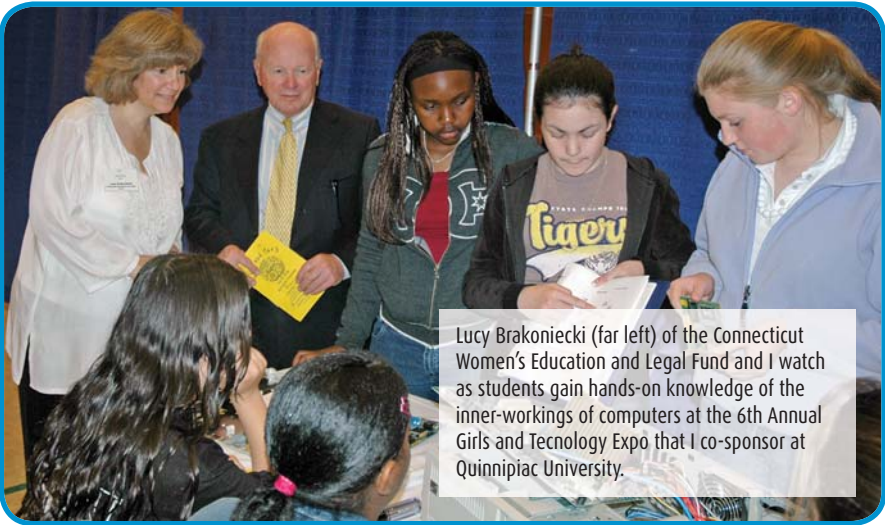
For the latest information on the issues affecting your district, please visit my Web site:
www.senatedems.ct.gov/Crisco.html



State Senator
Joseph J. Crisco, Jr.

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Capitol Phone 1-800-842-1420
E-mail Crisco@senatedems.ct.gov
Web www.senatedems.ct.gov/Crisco.html

I’m proud
to represent the
17th state
Senate District
which includes
the communities
of Ansonia,
Beacon Falls,
Bethany, Derby,
Hamden, Naugatuck
and Woodbridge



TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this form and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you’re interested in. My contact information is on the mailing address panel.

- ☐ Seniors
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Land Use
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Municipalities

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Town: _____ Zip: _____

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2006 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

The State Budget

We chose to invest in programs to improve the health, safety and education of Connecticut's residents. In addition, we're funding a cutting-edge economic development program designed to create the kind of jobs needed to keep Connecticut competitive in the 21st century. We're reducing a number of taxes and providing tax credits designed to stimulate growth in our state. We're also putting \$350 million into the Rainy Day Fund.

Our list of improvements/enhancements includes the following highlights:

- The personal property tax will be eliminated on manufacturing equipment and machinery
- The state property tax credit has been increased from \$400 to \$500 for the 2006 tax year
- Fully funding the Teachers' Retirement Fund in both FY 06 and FY 07 with \$246 million from the state surplus
- Providing \$1 billion for various transportation projects—the majority of which are mass transit—and a comprehensive transportation strategy plan
- There's a new tax deduction on the personal income tax for contributions made to the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET)
- Increased funding for community-based regional transportation for the elderly
- Property tax freeze for certain elderly homeowners
- The 15% corporation tax surcharge is eliminated for 2007
- A new tax credit will attract and retain companies by rewarding businesses that create good jobs



Clockwise from top: Presenting a check to Mimsey Coleman for the Hamden Arts Commission's Summer Concert Series; a long line for health services and information at my annual Senior Fair last fall; on tour at the Derby Cellular Products plant to explain our successful initiative to eliminate the property tax on manufacturing equipment and machinery.

Stop the raising
of co-pays on
MRI procedures
from 30% to 50%

STATE SENATOR JOE CRISCO 17TH DISTRICT

Working for Connecticut's Future

Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening

As co-chairman of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I worked to pass legislation that requires insurance companies to cover comprehensive ultrasound screening for women with increased risk factors for breast cancer, as well as those whose mammograms indicate dense breast tissue. This law will help more women gain access to the best screening tools medical science can offer.



Access to Imaging Services

Imaging services, such as MRIs and PET scans, are crucial in the diagnosis and proper treatment of certain diseases. However, some insurance companies have set copayments for these services so high that they are cost-prohibitive. A new law will set limits on the copayments that certain patients pay for these services, helping to ensure patients do not forgo these tests because of an inability to pay.

Bio-Medical Research Trust Fund

Recently, \$1.3 million in grants to fund research into cancer and other smoking-related diseases was awarded by the Department of Public Health. The grants are funded through the Bio-Medical Research Trust Fund, which was created through legislation I introduced in 2000. I find it especially exciting that research made possible through this Trust

Fund might provide answers to the hopes of so many patients suffering from heart disease, cancer, and other smoking related illnesses.

Hospital-Acquired Infections

We have all heard about people who went into hospitals to get better, but unfortunately developed new infections after being admitted. A new law will create a reporting system, providing the public with necessary information to compare infection rates at health care facilities in Connecticut. The system may also provide information about methods used to prevent the spread of infection. Beginning October 2008, this information will be published on a state Web site.

Taking a Stand Against Underage Drinking

House parties pose a significant risk to our young people who consume alcohol on private property. The General Assembly passed a new law this session that makes it illegal to knowingly allow underage drinking on your private property or to do nothing to prevent such activity. This legislation also extends the law prohibiting the possession of alcohol by a minor on public property to all private property as well.



Energy Efficiency

To help residents with energy costs, we passed legislation last October that exempted certain weatherization products—such as insulation, programmable thermostats, and energy-efficient furnaces and boilers—from the state sales tax. This session, we extended the exemption until June 30, 2007. We also

passed legislation that requires certain state construction projects to meet stricter energy and environmental standards. This will help save state taxpayers money while promoting energy efficiency.

Campaign Finance Reform and Ethics

We continued to strengthen our ethics laws in response to unprecedented corruption that occurred in our state. Legislation this year prohibits a governor's spouse from receiving honoraria and bans a governor from lobbying the state for at least one year after leaving office. We also continued to improve our strongest-in-the-nation campaign finance reform legislation by protecting the system's integrity in the event of a court challenge and further limiting political action committees (PACs).



Recognizing Our Veterans

The debt owed our state's veterans can never be paid in full. During the 2006 session, the legislature continued

to recognize the service of our brave men and women by passing new laws aimed at paying part of this debt. These new laws include exempting disability payments from determining eligibility for certain income based property tax exemptions for veterans, extending the same protections to state service members assigned to state duties as they would be entitled to on federal duty, and expanding the definition of veteran to include reservists and National Guardsmen.

Banning Internet or E-mail "Phishing"

The legislature adopted tough standards regarding the use of the Internet or e-mail messaging—known as "phishing"—to obtain

a person's identifying information by posing as an online business. The attorney general or victims of phishing may sue to recover damages and restrain the offender from further violations. Courts may award up to \$25,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater. If the offender is found to be a persistent violator, the court may award triple damages.

Clean Cars

The increased concentration of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides, in our atmosphere has the potential to negatively affect our climate. Since our vehicles emit these harmful gases, we passed legislation establishing a labeling program for new cars sold or leased for model years 2009 or later. The label will include a "greenhouse gas score" to help educate consumers on which vehicles are more environmentally sound and which have less detrimental impact.

Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools

We listened to Connecticut's parents and doctors and fought to provide our students with healthier food and beverage choices. We passed landmark legislation that bans the sale of soda and other sugary drinks in schools. It also provides towns three times as much in school lunch aid from the state if they provide healthier choices for their students. This incentive will promote the better nutrition and healthier lifestyles our kids deserve.